Finance Act, 1994 with effect from the enactment of the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2004 under clause 81-85 of Finance (No. 2) Bill, 20041985.

(c) As per article 266 of the Constitution, all revenues received by the Government of India is to form part of the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus the Education Cess will form part of the Consolidated Fund of India. The amount collected as Education Cess will be earmarked for education which will include providing a nutritious cooked mid-day meal.

NPAs of Punjab & Sind Bank

734. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross Non-Performing Assets of Punjab & Sind Bank have increased in the last fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of cases are not settled as compared to other Banks, whose NPAs have declined due to early settlements; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to immediately settle the cases of those who are willing to pay as per Bank or RBI's guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of Punjab & Sind Bank have declined from Rs. 1246.89 crores as on 31.03.2003 to Rs. 1203.51 crores as on 31.03.2004.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c) Punjab & Sind Bank has settled 1843 NPA cases amounting to Rs. 142.85 crores during the year 2003-04 and is in continuous process of settling the cases as per RBI/Bank's recovery policy. Other banks are also following directions of RBI and their own bank's recovery policies to settle the case. The position of different banks may not be comparable due to variation in their recovery policies and preferences.